

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 16-36 are pending in the application, with claims 16, 20 and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 16, 18, and 20 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the cancelled and/or amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

With respect to this Application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the references that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in this Application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over United States No. 5,579,307 to Richetta (herein "Richetta"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16 and 20 as amended are patentable over the art of record. For example, Richetta does not teach or suggest at least the features of "a

*processor configured to match the associated identifier with a corresponding pattern from either the first set of binary patterns or the second set of binary patterns using a range of values associated with each of the first set of binary patterns and the second set of binary patterns and to process the incoming packet in accordance with an instruction associated with a matched pattern"* as recited by claim 16 and at least the features of *"matching the associated identifier with a corresponding pattern from either the first set of binary patterns or the second set of binary patterns using a range of values associated with each of the first set of binary patterns and the second set of binary patterns"* and/or *"processing the incoming packet in accordance with an instruction associated with a matched pattern"* as recited by claim 20. Dependent claims 17-19 are likewise not rendered obvious by Richetta for the same reasons as claim 16 from which they depend and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***Allowed Claims***

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 21-36 in the Office Action.

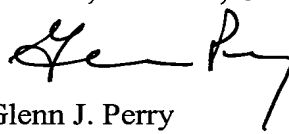
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Glenn J. Perry  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 28,458

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
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